

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Staci Burk,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kelly Townsend, et al.,

Defendants.

No. CV-22-1967-PHX-DMF

**ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Service by Publication upon Defendant Sydney Powell (Doc. 105), who has not appeared in these proceedings.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(e) regards service of persons who are within a judicial district of the United States, as Defendant Powell appears to be, and states:

**(e) Serving an Individual Within a Judicial District of the United States.**

Unless federal law provides otherwise, an individual--other than a minor, an incompetent person, or a person whose waiver has been filed--may be served in a judicial district of the United States by:

(1) following state law for serving a summons in an action brought in courts of general jurisdiction in the state where the district court is located or where service is made; or

(2) doing any of the following:

(A) delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the individual personally;

(B) leaving a copy of each at the individual's dwelling or usual place of abode with someone of suitable age and discretion who resides there; or

1 (C) delivering a copy of each to an agent authorized by appointment  
2 or by law to receive service of process.

3 Ariz. Rule Civ. P. 4.2 regards service of out of state defendants, and insofar as service by  
4 publication, it states:

5 **(f) Service by Publication.**

6 (1) *Generally.* If a party shows that the service provided by Rule  
7 4.2(b) through 4.2(e) is impracticable, the court may, on motion and without  
8 notice to the person to be served, order that service be accomplished by  
9 publication. A serving party may initiate the service by publication procedure  
10 described in Rule 4.2(f)(2) prior to moving for such an order or while the  
11 motion is pending. The court may permit service by publication, in such  
12 manner and form as the court may direct, if:

13 (A) the serving party, despite reasonably diligent efforts, has  
14 been unable to determine the person's current address; or the person  
15 to be served has intentionally avoided service of process;

16 (B) service by publication is the best means practicable in the  
17 circumstances for providing notice to the person of the action's  
18 commencement; and

19 (C) the motion is supported by affidavit that sets forth the  
20 serving party's reasonably diligent efforts to serve the person.

21 **(2) Procedure.**

22 (A) *Generally.* Service by publication is accomplished by  
23 publishing the summons and a statement describing how a copy of the  
24 pleading being served may be obtained at least once a week for 4  
25 successive weeks in a newspaper published in the county where the  
26 action is pending.

27 (B) *Who May Serve.* Service by publication may be made by  
28 the serving party, its counsel, or anyone else authorized to serve  
process under Rule 4(d).

(C) *Alternative Newspapers.* If no newspaper is published in a  
county where publication is required, the serving party must publish  
the summons and statement in a newspaper in an adjoining county.

1 (D) Effective Date of Service. Service is complete 30 days after  
2 the summons and statement is first published in all newspapers where  
3 publication is required.

4 (3) *Mailing*. If the serving party knows the address of the person being  
5 served, it must, on or before the date of first publication, mail to the person  
6 the summons and a copy of the pleading being served, postage prepaid.

7 (4) *Return*.

8 (A) Required Affidavit. The party or person making service  
9 must prepare, sign and file an affidavit describing the manner and  
10 dates of the publication and mailing, and the circumstances  
11 warranting service by publication. If no mailing was made because  
12 the serving party did not know the current address of the person being  
13 served, the affidavit must state that fact.

14 (B) Accompanying Publication. A printed copy of the  
15 publication must accompany the affidavit.


16 (C) Effect. An affidavit that complies with these requirements  
17 constitutes prima facie evidence of compliance with the requirements  
18 for service by publication.

19 After careful review of the docket and the present motion, the Court will allow  
20 service by publication to proceed, subject to Plaintiff properly following the applicable  
21 procedures and filing proof of such with the Court. Nevertheless, the Court will grant the  
22 motion (Doc. 105) without prejudice to Defendant Powell later contesting the propriety of  
23 service by publication upon Defendant Powell.

24 Accordingly,

25 **IT IS ORDERED** granting as set forth herein Plaintiff's Motion for Service by  
26 Publication upon Defendant Sydney Powell (Doc. 105) without prejudice to Defendant  
27 Powell later contesting the propriety of service by publication upon Defendant Powell.

28 Dated this 25th day of January, 2024.

  
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Honorable Deborah M. Fine  
United States Magistrate Judge